

# Polamite Press



Issue 5

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## Wimbledon

The tennis tournament at Wimbledon is one of four Grand Slam tennis tournaments in the world. The other three are: the Australian Open, the French Open and the American Open. This year's prize money totals £13,725,000 with the Men's and Ladies Singles Champions each receiving £1,000,000.

Wimbledon is the oldest tennis tournament in the world and it is often considered the most prestigious. It has been held at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, a London suburb, since 1877. The Royal Family traditionally attend the tournament and this year the Queen visited Wimbledon on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June

Wimbledon has been held most years since this, although it stopped during the two World Wars. Wimbledon tennis is now separated into two eras. The Amateur Era ran from when it first began up until 1967 and from 1968 until the present day it has been known as the Open Era.

This year, the school was offered a number of tickets to go watch the tennis on Court One in Wimbledon on the 26<sup>th</sup> June. The first match of the day was Robin Soderling vs Thomaz Bellucci, and then it was followed by Maria Sharapova vs Barbora Zahlavova Strycova. They were very exciting matches to watch and unfortunately we had to leave before the third match was played. On Centre Court, the Nadal vs Petzchner match was played and we were able to watch the match from Henman Hill. Unfortunately we had to leave the Murray match – but some people saw him as he went around the grounds!

The first men's singles champion at Wimbledon was British player Spencer Gore, and Britain held on to the winner's position for 29 years, until it was won by an Australian. Nowadays, the winners are of different nationalities and on the next page are the profiles of some of the male tennis players you are likely to have heard of.

# Roger Federer

**Country:** Switzerland  
**DoB:** August 8<sup>th</sup> 1981  
**Height:** 6ft 1  
**Total Career Prize Money:** US\$55,990,245  
**Current Ranking:** No.2  
**Single Titles:** 62  
**Double Titles:** 8  
**Olympic Gold medals:** Beijing (doubles)

# Rafael Nadal

**Country:** Spain  
**DoB:** June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1986  
**Height:** 6ft 1  
**Total Career Prize Money:** US\$31,229,108  
**Current Ranking:** No.1  
**Single Titles:** 40  
**Double Titles:** 61  
**Olympic Gold medals:** Beijing (singles)

# Andy Roddick

**Country:** USA  
**DoB:** August 30<sup>th</sup> 1982  
**Height:** 6ft 2  
**Total Career Prize Money:** US\$18,342,914  
**Current Ranking:** No. 7  
**Single Titles:** 29  
**Double Titles:** 4

# Andy Murray

C

**Country:** United Kingdom  
**DoB:** May 15<sup>th</sup> 1987  
**Height:** 6ft 3  
**Total Career Prize Money:** US\$11,145,942  
**Current Ranking:** No.4  
**Single Titles:** 14  
**Double Titles:** 0

Less heard of at Wimbledon are the women's championships. They began in 1884, five years after the men's tournament at Wimbledon started. Martina Navratilove, an American, holds the title for the most wins in the Women's Singles Tennis Championships, as she has won nine times and the USA also has the most tennis champions.

For the past ten years, the two main women to watch have been Serena and Venus Williams from America. Together, they hold 8 titles and have conceded to only two other players.

	Serena Williams	Venus Williams
<b>Country</b>	USA	USA
<b>DofB</b>	26 <sup>TH</sup> September 1981	17 <sup>th</sup> June 1980
<b>Height</b>	5ft 9	6ft 1
<b>Total Career Prize Money</b>	US\$31,151,042	US\$27,066,778
<b>Current Ranking</b>	No.1	No. 2
<b>Single Titles</b>	36	43
<b>Double Titles</b>	19	19
<b>Mixed Doubles Titles</b>	4	2
<b>Olympic Gold Medals</b>	Beijing (doubles) Sydney (doubles)	Beijing (doubles) Sydney (doubles) Sydney (singles)

### Isner vs Mahut

Court 18. Up until recently it has not been a very well known court. Now two men – John Isner and Nicholas Mahut – have made history on the court. The game began at 6:18pm on Tuesday 22 June, stopping at 9:07pm, with a score of 2 sets each, because of fading light.

The game resumed the following day at 2:05pm and it didn't finish until 9:13, when play was suspended again (despite the crowd chanting "we want more"). On this day, 2 groups of linespeople and four groups of ballboys were rotated to support the game! It became the longest match ever played and by the end of the second game the score was 59 games all. This

was such a high number of games that the scoreboard went into meltdown!

At 3:40, the game resumed on Thursday and it lasted one hour and nine minutes, with Isner winning the game 70 games to 68. This means that a total of 138 games were played in a set which lasted 8 hours 11 minutes. The game itself lasted 11 hours and 5 minutes.

The match broke numerous tennis records – the longest match, the longest set, most games in a set, most aces by a player in a match and total aces in a match. Both Mahut and Isner gained over 100 aces, with Isner holding the title of the most in one match with 112, followed by Mahut with 103 (a total of 215!)

## Art evening

This year's Art Evening was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> May and it was a huge success. This evening is a chance for the GCSE and A Level students to showcase their work so that friends and family can come and see it displayed in all its glory. There was a wide range of art, from Lewis Warren's focus on Alice in Wonderland to Harriet Eleanor's military jackets.

Mrs Dawson said "It was really nice to see each individual's personality showing through their work". Hopefully, the girls will receive the good marks that anyone who has seen their artwork would agree they clearly deserve.

## *Why I would love to travel back in time...*

### *... To the Sixties!*

**Favourite band:** The Kinks

**Fashion Idols:** Edie Sedgwick, Twiggy and Sandy Shaw

**Favourite fashion designers:** Barbara Hulanicki and Mary Quant

**Favourite film:** The Graduate

I love everything about the Sixties; the fashion, the hair styles, the music, and the media. I wish I had been there to experience it!

If I had a time machine, I know exactly which decade I would travel back to. I have always enjoyed standing out from the crowd and the sixties was most certainly a decade that was all about standing out.

I should think I enjoy, and feel most comfortable wearing the styles of this era because the boyish figures that were all in are most similar to my own physique.

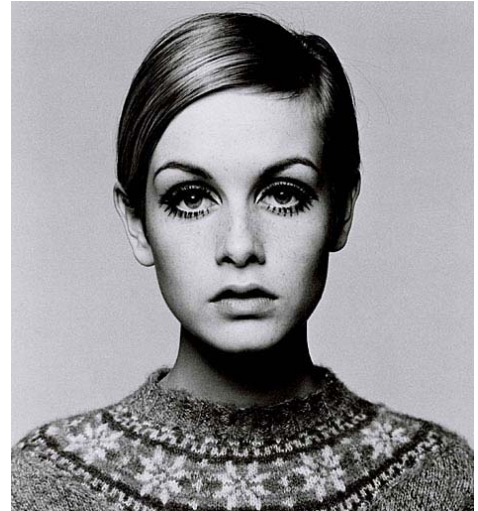
I have been a vintage fashion addict since the age of fourteen and love nothing more than spending hours on end searching through the rails of the vintage boutiques in Newcastle, Leeds, Edinburgh and of course London.

This summer will be like a paradise as I will be spending a week in London with my friends, a week in which I will be able to enjoy four non-stop days of vintage bargain hunting in the wonderful Camden town.

As I mentioned, I am also incredibly in love with sixties music and if I could see any band perform under any circumstances it would have to be The Kinks. I guess I shall have to settle for reliving the sixties brilliance of The Kinks in my bedroom by grabbing a 'kinks classic from my record collection and letting it spin on my beautiful bright red record player- my most beloved possession.

Some might say my passion for this era is verging on an obsession but I see it as a way of expressing myself whilst being a walking talking shrine to the awe-inspiring decade that was the sixties.

Circa 1966 an amazing band once sang "I love to live so pleasantly, live this life of luxury, lazing on a sunny afternoon". Something I am without doubt looking forward to "in the summertime."



## Polam Hall History



Earlier this month was the Old Scholars Weekend, and on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June the Lower School Awards and Polam Hall Old Scholars Association awards were presented. At this event, the people there spanned over eighty years of polamites, with people visiting who had attend the school in the 1930s!

During the weekend PHOSA elected a new President. Many thanks went to Erin Campbell who had been President for the past year and Mrs Gail Slater was

welcomed as the new President. I am sure most people know Mrs Slater as she worked in the Art Department at Polam Hall but she was also a pupil here.

The awards were a great event and there were some amazing performances from Courtney on flute, Cara Dawson on the harp, Beth Cunningham who sang, and Emily Rider and Phillipa Harland who performed an extract from the book *Noughts and Crosses*.

## Duke of Edinburgh

As the end of term approaches, it becomes a busy time for those doing their Duke of Edinburgh awards. It is time to finish off the different sections; get the skills, service and physical activities part of the award signed for and the assessed expeditions for, the bronze and silver awards begin to fast approach.

This year's bronze expedition was around Wensleydale whereas the silver expedition involves a walk from Danby to Robin Hood's Bay! The bronze expedition involves two days of walking and one nights camping whilst the silver expedition is an extra day walking and another nights camping! This makes the over full bags even heavier, as more food and clothes are packed in!

This walk will be a stark contrast to the earlier practice walks that have been done. On the silver practice expedition the nights were very cold – it involved shivering whilst eating dinner, huddling into the tent by 8 o'clock, and a very cramped night as we piled too many people into the tent to share body warmth! The one good thing about that expedition was that it was a nice campsite – with decent loos and a shower – which is something anyone who has done the walks will appreciate!

This time we hope the weather will be warmer so we can stay outside till a bit later, have a chance to sunbathe and of course . . . we pray the loos will be as nice as last time!

## Our Oscar

It has been over a month since my last post and Oscar is almost twice the size he was. He is now 16 weeks old and has been going on walks for the last two weeks, although I do not know whether they could be classed as "walks".

Oscar has not taken to walking more than half way down the street, instead he prefers to lie down and refuse to carry on walking nor will he move at all in order to return home. Several times my parents have had to resort to bundling him over their shoulder and carrying him home.

Oscar is still as lively as ever, but fortunately he has grasped the concept of going outside to do his business, well, most of the time anyway.

He enjoys his food... a lot! He is very possessive over it and you do not want to get in the way of him and his tripe stick. If you would like to keep both your hands it is strongly advised that you keep away from Oscar when he is ripping a bone or chew toy to shreds.

Soon Oscar will be attending ring training classes, which I am sure will be a very entertaining and amusing experience, this is our Oscar after all!

## Creative Writing Club

### Trampoline

She grits her teeth in determination,  
As she jumps up to meet the air  
Like a swan arching its graceful neck  
In a state of utmost beauty.

Like a ballet dancer, she brings  
Her arms up, each one to  
Rest against her ear as if it was  
A pair of warm earmuffs.  
Stalking its prey.

The air rushes past her as  
She prepares to arch her  
Legs to land, as an eagle  
Might land, without a sound.

The first toe lands. She  
Lands softly on the balls  
Of her feet, like a panther

She walks away, softly,  
Smiling.

Heidi Leigh

## U5 Prom

Over one year ago we began our preparations for the prom. At the time it seemed a bit early but it wasn't long before the event came around. Once the prom committee was elected, the committee became busy looking at the prices of venues, and we agreed to go to Rockliffe Hall for the prom. After that it was menu choices, flowers, invites, and the DJ to organise but eventually all the money was collected in, the table plans and menu pre-orders sent off, and everything arranged. As a surprise for the year, a PowerPoint was created which showed how the year had changed, with pictures going all the way back to reception – with some embarrassing pictures of many people being discovered! On the afternoon before the prom, two of the committee were busy in town collecting the flowers and buying thank-you presents for the attending teachers.

Then it was time to get ready – and this was a preparation in itself! For some people, it was spray tans the day before and trial hair do's, but at last it was time for the real thing - to do your hair, put on the makeup and squeeze into that perfect dress! There was a wide range of dresses of all shapes and

colours and everyone had made a real effort to look their very best.

The evening itself was fantastic. The night began outside the hotel on the balcony with welcome drinks followed by photographs being taken of the year group and their guests by Mrs Craggs. We were taken to our seats, and the delicious meal began! A choice of soup, pate and salad to start, followed by chicken, tortellini or sausages and then finally, chocolate torte, ice cream or fruit – although the chocolate torte was by far the most popular!

The disco began and gangs of girls crowded onto the dance floor to dance to chart hits and party classics like the Macarena. After an entertaining stint of Northern Soul music requested by the older generation, many of the guests returned to the balcony as it was such a warm night. At 12pm, in fear of their carriages turning back into pumpkins, girls and guests began to leave the beautiful venue after a wonderful prom night!



## Reviews

### Books:

Angel Blood by John Singleton

This book is fairly highly rated when reviewed, and although I can see why it has been described as "an astonishing read that you won't be able to forget" but personally I think that this book has just tipped over the line between creative and just plain weird. Although the story ends with a powerful and moving climax, the rest of the book seems a little confusing and unexplained. Singleton has used some moving techniques through the story, for example, not giving the children real names because this dehumanises them but I feel that this story is a little too weird and wacky for my taste.

### Music:

Leona Lewis

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> I had a decision to make. . . what shoes I should wear. This is always something I think about before going to a concert and tonight I was off to see Leona Lewis at the Metro Radio Arena.

Do you wear flats for comfort, or heels to give you an advantage over the crowd as everyone in front of you stands up? This time I went for heels, and I'm glad I did – it made it much easier to see the stage!

Gabriella Cilmi was the support act at this sell out show and she sang some great songs getting the audience very excited about seeing Leona! Leona came on wearing a short black dress with thigh high boots and two costume changes followed – which gave the audience a chance to sit down and rest their feet! Her second outfit was a gorgeous teal dress and then she changes into a beautiful sparkly ballerina-style dress.

Leona sang a variety of her songs from her album with a variety of beats and themes from 'Take A Bow' to 'Happy' to 'First Time Ever I Saw Your Face'. She had some amazing lights with gorgeous changing colours and the image on the screen behind her changed from a summery scene with butterflies flying across to a woodland area where Leona invited the audience to join in a rendition of 'Cry Me A River' around the "campfire". Finally, the setting became that of a starry night sky and Leona sang 'Sweet Dreams'.

There were amazing dancers varying from topless men, to woodland animals, ballerinas, a music box and amazing trapeze artists. The trapeze was a recurring feature of the show, with the dancers swinging across the stage, flipping up and down, and Leona even laid in the trapeze during a song.

At the end of the show Leona came back on for the encore in another dress – this time a stunning blue puffball dress and she sang 'Bleeding Love'. The crowd loved the song with most people joining in and at the end glitter rained down on the audience. Leona left the stage to the screams and applause of the crowd. It was truly a superb show!

